

## Carlton Gardening Group

### Annual Report to Carlton Parish Council 2018

#### **Works carried out since the last meeting**

The CGG currently has 13 members providing a total of 102.2 man-hours of volunteer labour in the Carlton Diamond Jubilee Orchard (88 hours), Little Lane (12.2 hours), and in the Churchyard and Cemetery (2 hours). We express our appreciation of the refreshments provided to working parties by Enid Morgan and Tania Sharp.

#### **a) Diamond Jubilee Orchard**

A new wearing surface had been laid on the path, contractors parking area, and site entrance over a period of three days using hired plant and funded by s106 developer contributions. All of the remaining shrub tubes and stakes had been removed. The fruit trees were still staked and had been pruned, and tubes had been left to allow easy spraying.

The NCHA border next to the path at the Barton Rd site entrance had been adopted by the neighbour, and planted with attractive shrubs. This makes for a much more attractive entrance to the Orchard.

The wildflower meadow areas had exhibited an interesting succession of flowers and grasses from April to June, but the growth had been very vigorous and difficult to clear and dispose of. Following discussions with the PC, the contracted maintenance regime had been changed for 2018 – most of the grassed areas would be mowed, leaving only two areas of wildflowers.

After removal of the cuttings from the wildflower meadow, the paths had all been covered with tiny weed seedlings which had required treatment with herbicide. A hedgehog box had been moved from the meadow area and installed in Little Lane. The site had been cleared of weeds, the north hedge had been side trimmed and gaps planted up, and bark chips had been laid along the box hedge.

#### **b) Churchyard and Cemetery**

Sunken graves had been levelled and spoil from grave digging had been used to level a small area of the site. *Cyclamen* had been planted under the variegated holly next to the church path and were growing well.

#### **c) Little Lane**

A wearing surface of 4mm to dust granite had been laid over a period of two days, with help from a local excavator operator who had kindly loaded the stone, and a tractor owner who had transported it without charge. A mixed group of tall shrubs at the northern end of Little Lane had blown over, and had been cleared and disposed of with help from the neighbouring farmer.

#### **d) Roadside hedges**

Five specimen trees of *Quercus petraea* had been planted, thanks to the kind permission of the landowners, and a grant of 60% of the costs from H&BBC.

#### **Forward work programme:**

##### **April**

Orchard Monitor weeds in paths and Nailstone Rd hedge and spray if necessary. Spray round fruit trees. Check whether shrubs along board fences need wire or tying up. Peg down compost bins. Transplant ferns away from board fence adj no.10 to allow mowing.

Cemetery Level graves and spoil; sow grass seed.  
Little Lane Control bramble growth in bare area near seat.

##### **May**

Orchard Sow grass seed at Nailstone Road site entrance.

Cemetery Attack brambles growing through shrubs.

Little Lane Consider planting of tree to mark Royal Wedding.

##### **June**

Orchard Consider repair of Nailstone Road reptile and Amphibian refuge.

##### **July**

Orchard Cut wildflower meadow areas and dispose of cuttings.  
Assess new contracted maintenance regime.

##### **August**

Orchard Treat park bench seat timbers and picnic table with tung oil.  
Make display about CGG for Horticultural Show.  
Consider ordering additional bulbs.  
Consider entering fruit in Horticultural Show.

##### **September**

Orchard Review shrubs.

Consider removal of all remaining tree stakes.

Roadsides Review plantings of *Quercus petraea* in roadside hedges; replace any dead trees; invite landowner on northern side of Congerstone Lane between village and brook to consider an additional planting.

##### **October**

Orchard Autumn clean-up.

##### **November**

Orchard Trim Nailstone Rd and north hedges.

##### **January**

Orchard Consider planting snow drops in the green under Nailstone Rd hedge.

Graham Jackson (Chairman)

The above report was presented at the Annual Meeting of Carlton Parish Council on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018 and has been copied from Report 2018-10 Annual Reports from Parish Organisations and Parish Council Representatives.